

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NEA-10 PRS-01
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APPROVED BY H:DJBENNET, JR.
S/S- PTARNOFF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015516 TOSEC 010097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: INTERRUPTION OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS--CON-
GRESSIONAL REACTION

1. WE HAVE BRIEFED LEADERSHIP AND OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS ON THE RECALL OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION FROM THE
JERUSALEM TALKS. MEMBERS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE
RUPTURE, BUT PROFOUNDLY HOPEFUL THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE
SECRETARY WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT
WILL PERMIT THE TALKS TO BE RESUMED.

2. WE QUOTED THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN JERUSALEM AND
TRIED TO PLACE AS UPBEAT AS POSSIBLE AN INTERPRETATION ON
THE EVENTS OF THE WEEK. WE HAVE TOLD CONGRESS THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP
THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS GOING.

3. THERE SEEMED LITTLE INCLINATION ON THE PART OF MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS TO ASSESS BLAME ON EITHER EGYPT OR ISRAEL, AND
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NO INCLINATION TO BE CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION.
QUITE TO THE CONTRARY; ED DERWINSKI, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID THE
ISSUE WAS FAR TOO DELICATE AND TOO IMPORTANT FOR A PARTISAN
STATEMENT TO BE MADE. SID YATES SUGGESTED THAT MAYBE THIS
IS THE TIME FOR QUOTE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY UNQUOTE TO BE RE-

SUMED. SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR AN ACTIVE

ROLE BY THE SECRETARY IN RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SADAT IN CAIRO AND STAYING WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS IF IT SEEMED USEFUL.

4. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE CONTACTED YESTERDAY AND TODAY: SENATORS RIBICOFF, CRANSTON, AND GLENN AND REPRESENTATIVES O'NEILL, WRIGHT, YATES, HAMILTON, SOLARZ, RHODES, DERWINSKI, BUCHANAN AND SIMON. IN ADDITION, WE BRIEFED MIDDLE EAST SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF OF BOTH HOUSES AND PERSONAL STAFF OF SENATORS CASE, STONE, BAKER, SARBANES, AND BIDEN AND FOR REPRESENTATIVES BRADEMAS AND ROSENTHAL. MOST REQUESTED FOLLOW-UP CALLS AFTER THE SECRETARY HAS MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT.

5. SECRETARY IS SCHEDULED FOR HIRC EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MIDDLE EAST 10:00 TO 11:30 TUESDAY, JANUARY 24. SFRC SESSION STILL PENDING. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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